

Northern Jefferson Davis Corridor Special Area Plan Community Engagement Comments Received and Compiled

January 2016



Bensley Community Center workshop



Bellwood Elementary School workshop

During the month of October, county staff members met with citizens and community organizations to receive their comments regarding their community. Specifically, the meetings were of an open-house, work shop format, where individuals could talk to staff members, receive information about the plan amendment process, sign up to be placed on our contact list, and provide their thoughts on the following questions.

Staff has summarized all the comments received below. The comments are listed in no particular order and do not reflect the frequency a comment occurred or the importance placed on it by a citizen.

What do you love about this area?

- Sense of community
- Diversity (ages, cultures)
- Community spirit
- The people/families (established neighborhoods/life-long residents)
- Children, families, potential

- Good elementary schools
- Convenient to shopping, hospitals, churches, everything
- Security of living in an established neighborhood
- History of neighborhood & area
- Advantages of knowing my neighbors
- Heritage of caring & involved residents and businesses
- Resiliency of area
- Job opportunities
- Shopping opportunities
- Close to the City of Richmond (RVA)
- Proximity to major highways (I-95, Rt. 288, other)
- Low amount of traffic
- Good community involvement
- Good neighbors
- Convenience
- Quiet area
- History: take advantage of resources of national significant

What would you like to see changed in this area?

- More traffic lights
- Pedestrian cross-walks along Jefferson Davis Highway, with pedestrian buttons
- Less clutter
- Assist local business owners with operations management (trash, facility maintenance, etc.)
- Clean up unsightly areas
- Assist older residents with home repairs
- Better housing at mobile home parks (Shady Hill)
- Safer walking areas, especially at Falling Creek Bridge & Chippenham Parkway area
- Maintain security
- Encourage young people to buy homes in the area and become vested in the community
- Higher zoning standards for new businesses
- More sidewalks along Jefferson Davis Highway & in surrounding neighborhoods
- Improved landscaping to attract more businesses
- Better housing for moderate and low income families
- Good restaurants
- Public transportation (many residents do not have automobiles, or are unable to drive; some cannot ride a bicycle or walk very far)
- Bicycle lanes along Jefferson Davis Highway
- Clean up the Corridor
- Small park/play area for family living in the Quail Oaks area
- Stricter code enforcement
- Lower rents and vehicle expenses for economically challenged citizens
- Eliminate some of the used car lots on Jefferson Davis Highway
- Fewer run-down commercial establishments
- Increased police presence (crime, traffic)

- Better retail businesses & restaurants
- Revitalization of the worst buildings/areas
- More parks/playgrounds
- Relocate Meth clinic out of the area
- More trash pick-up (along streets)
- More sidewalks
- More storm sewers
- More traffic calming devices
- More sidewalks
- Bike lanes
- More roads (connections)
- Fewer used car dealerships
- More residential street lighting
- A greater sense of community/neighborhood
- Better access to medical services and veterans' services
- More effort to promote Neighborhood Watch groups
- Make improvements to trailer parks
- More code enforcement
- More small businesses in the area
- Community focal points
- Mass transit (bus service)
- Accessible mental health and substance abuse facilities/services
- Bike ramps/skate board ramps
- History should be marketed
 - Historic Route 1 (market, produce a pamphlet, develop a visitor's center)
- Encourage more redevelopment (Winchester Greens)
 - Architecture
 - Mixed use
 - Green space
- Environmental preservation/enhancement
- Renovate older homes/neighborhoods
- Encourage energy efficient development/renovations
- Housing vouchers for low income residents
- Minimize automobile-oriented uses
- Encourage volunteerism/community energy
- Provide better health care services

What would make this area better?

- More buffers between commercial and retail areas
- More traffic lights to make traffic safer
- More conveniences for senior citizens
- Home maintenance & repair help
- Debris/trash cleanup
- Fewer tire sales & vehicle sales lots

- Clean out ditches and drainage conveyance
- Clean up streams
- Storm water improvements
- Provide the Corridor with a new image
- Attractive neighborhood entry signs & landscaping
- Traffic light at Sherbourne and Jeff Davis
- Better housing for low/moderate income families
- Better planning efforts
- More open space
- Lower development densities
- Less rental housing
- Incentives for new housing & rehabilitation of existing housing
- More senior housing
- Investment in historical sites
- More government support
- More support for elementary schools & teachers
- Drainage issues on Rt. 1 and side streets (ditches need to be cleaned)
- Need for a community space at Chimney Corner(Richmond View area)
- Need for a community farmers market
- More aggressive removal of blight/abandoned structures
- Need for trails along the river
- Need for improvements to the Willis Rt./I-95 interchange
- Need for community job fairs (partner with John Tyler CC)
- Need to upgrade Bellwood Elementary School (obsolete building, field maintenance, playground erosion)

What, if anything, would you change in this photo? (Views along Jefferson Davis Highway)



- Wider vehicle travel lanes
- More street trees
- Traffic lights at intersections
- Require parking to locate to the sides or rears of businesses (not between businesses & road)
- More retail shopping establishments
- Improved landscaping
- Better restaurants
- Reduce junk/clutter
- A better, coordinated development pattern
- Higher quality development
- People friendly sidewalks
- Signalized pedestrian cross walks
- Repave the street
- Landscaped medians/islands
- Fewer automobile sales/repair businesses
- Find uses for vacant properties
- Clean us/repair businesses
- I like it the way it is

- Community gardens
- Better sign regulation
- Provide more police patrols
- Remove/relocate above ground utilities

What, if anything, would you change in this photo? (Views along subdivision street)



- Provide storm sewers
- Encourage more neighborhood interaction opportunities
- Provide street lighting
- Provide sidewalks
- Provide bicycle lanes
- Provide traffic calming devices
- Remove/relocate above ground utilities
- Provide on-street parking (instead of parking on grass edges)

General Comments

- Does the county have the heart to make a difference, or is it just throwing us a bone?
- History of the county in recent decades has focused on new development.
- The Corridor generates a lot of revenue for the county (economic development), but little of it has come back to the community.
- Concern for the impact that Tranlin will have on community (trucks need to be routed away from Rt. 1)

Additional comments received through January 2016

Jefferson Davis Association Membership Meeting – 10/21/15

What do you love about this area?

Diversity – different cultures
History – take advantage – national
Long term residents
Funky in a good way
People can be themselves
Community associations – care
Neighbors as family
Diversity of lot sizes
Revitalization
Accessibility
Labor force

What would you like to see changed in this area?

Market history
Gateways – make better
Rapid transit
Images
Shady Hill – better housing
Bike lanes
Beautification, landscape, trees, community gardens
Access to river
Redevelopment like Winchester Greens, mixed use, green space, environment, architecture
Fix up older homes and neighborhoods
Housing vouchers
Auto uses – minimize
New volunteers/energy
Transportation – pedestrians, connections, transit (part of a vital community)
Health care

Bensley Elementary School PTA 11/17/15



What do you love about this area?

Playground
Bensley Park & Community Center
Stores – Family Dollar
Neighbors/people
Landscaping
Schools
Family oriented/close community
Affordable housing

What would you like to see changed in this area?

Crime
Grocery store within walking distance of neighborhood
Variety of services
Improved appearance of the corridor
Restaurants
Reduced speed on the corridor/corridor traffic safety
Sidewalks/pedestrian overpass at Chippenham Parkway cloverleaf/pedestrian safety (lights/signals/etc.)
Technology industries
Street/road improvements
Improve Shady Hill/affordable housing/landscaping
Public transportation
Farmers market/destination areas
Coin laundry/other personal service businesses

Shady Hill Community Meeting 11/30/15



What do you love about this area?

Block parties
People
Besnsley Park
Close to stores

What would you like to see changed in this area?

Sidewalks
Bike trails
Street lights – brighter, better maintained
Signalized pedestrian crosswalks
Better lighting
Better quality affordable housing
Crime and Safety – neighborhoods (robbery, drugs)
Park along river
Litter cleanup
Community pool/playground
Bus service – Chester/Rt. 10 area, John Tyler Community College
Community center – expand, with longer hours, better lighting, gym
Community events – food events, etc.
Background checks for residents (sex offenders)
After school activities/programs
Food store access
Nursing, workforce training
Library access
Reduced speed limits in neighborhoods and along Rt. 1
Better relationship with police
Park – basketball, football, soccer, tennis – well lighted and safe
Address hunger issues (children)
Address homelessness

Address the public's perception of area residents

St. Augustine Community Meeting 12/6/15 (Latino Community)



What do you love about this area?

Ethnic stores and shops
Flea markets
Good vehicular access to region

What would you like to see changed in this area?

Eliminate adult businesses
Improve driveways and parking lots in mobile home parks
More family oriented parks
Repair streets
Improve safety
More trees
New restaurants
More new houses
Fewer vehicle repair businesses
Better illumination
Get rid of prostitution
Improve security
Another community center (with adult classes, including English as a second language)
Upgrade building facades (businesses)
More street lights
A medical center
Bilingual signage
More parks
Newer shopping centers
Yoga classes

Library with:

- Classes for: Computer, music, folkloric, electronic, engineering, craft, paint, cooking, sew/crochet, haircut, and art.
- Auditorium to perform shows and community shows
- Room for homework to support children with their classes

Cultural centers for young, children and moms (in the mornings)

Special zones for bikes-ride and park

Sacred Heart Community Meeting 12/13/15 (Latino Community)



What do you love about this area?

The many families and the potential for community growth

Diversity (cultural)

Diversity of businesses

Falling Creek Park and other creeks in the area

What would you like to see changed in this area?

Public transportation

Fewer traffic lights

More pharmacies

Eliminate drug trafficking

Eliminate prostitution

Improve appearance of businesses

More parks for families

A community resource center

More visible police presence

More family friendly community, less industrial

More sidewalks

More street trees

Improve the trailer parks
Too much industrial development
More pharmacies
An amusement park
Better illumination
More parks along area creeks
Address language issues in schools
More open space
Cross walks
Walking trails
Bike trails
River access
Mixed income housing
A supermarket
Pet park
More recreational facilities (YMCA, YWCA, Boy's Club, Girl's Club)
Fewer bars
Child friendly attractions
Family centered businesses
Family center recreation
More affordable housing
More access to fresh foods (markets)

Nueva Esperanza Community Meeting 12/6/15 (Latino Community)

What would you like to see changed in this area?

Indoor soccer
Skate park
Shopping mall
More street lights
More child friendly recreational facilities
Relocate/eliminate utility poles
A homeless shelter
Eliminate drug trafficking
More police presence
Safer neighborhoods (Bensley and Bensley Park)
Another full service bank (Such as a Bank of America)
Traffic circles
More parks
A water park
Better relationship between the police and the Hispanic community
Better lighting in Bensley Park
Skate board park
Neighborhood cleanups
Parks closer to neighborhoods
Park maintenance

Improve trailer parks
Better police presence in parks

Ampthill Civic Association 2/8/16

Thoughts about the Community

This is a great neighborhood with great neighbors
Need better riverfront access for public use, including a boat ramp
The 7 Eleven and used car lot in the median of Rt. 1 need to be redeveloped/removed
Falling Creek Bridge (historic) needs to be restored
Gates Mill Park has been neglected, as well as the trail off of Goolsby Road
Mobile home parks need to be cleaned up
Mattress businesses (selling mattresses out of the backs of trucks) need to be regulated
Dumping in Falling Creek off Dundas Road needs to be stopped/cleaned up
Neighborhoods and Rt. 1 need to be made clean and attractive
More family-style restaurants near neighborhoods
Need a Walmart close by
Need a WaWa or a Sheetz to replace Wilson Trucking
Overhead power lines in neighborhoods need to be buried
Rt. 1 median needs to be landscaped (boulevard-type improvements)
Walking along Rt. 1 and in the neighborhoods needs to be safer
Transit that serves the community is needed (circulators)
Need to coordinate with Richmond so the corridor north also is revitalized
The perception of the area needs to be changed
Need newer schools
Better street lighting and sidewalks needed in neighborhoods
Dundas Road bridge over CSX needs to be improved for pedestrians
Incentives needed to renovate existing homes and attract investors
Curb appeal of neighborhoods need to be improved
Drainage/flooding issues in ditches
Speed limits through neighborhood need to be reduced/enforced
Dumping on Oriole Avenue needs to be stopped/cleaned up